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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5325

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: JLP ISSUES HO HUM ELECTION MANIFESTO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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1. SUMMARY: THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY ISSUED ITS LONG-AWAITED ELECTION MANIFESTO DECEMBER 4 DEFINING ITS PROGRAM OF "NATIONALISM" AND DENOUNCING THE PNP'S FIVE YEARS IN CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE BASIC THEME OF THE MANIFESTO WAS "RESTORATION OF CONFIDENCE" AND RE-AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN "PRIVATE INITIATIVE." THE MANIFESTO WAS PUBLISHED WITH MINIMAL FANFARE AND CONTAINED NO SURPRISES.

2. THE SIX PAGE MANIFESTO (FULL TEXT POUCHED DEPT) IS A NUMBEROLOGICAL NIGHTMARE OF LISTS OF PRIORITIES, GOALS, STRATEGIES, ETC. IT LISTS THE FIVE GOALS OF "NATIONALISM" AS:
A. HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING
B. GREATER SOCIAL HARMONY
C. STRONGER CULTURAL ROOTS
D. CONSERVATION OF NATIONAL ASSETS
E. STABLE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

3. THE FIVE STRATEGIES TO BE PURSUED BY A JLP GOVERMENT ARE:
-- EQUAL AND GREATER OPPORTUNITY THROUGH INCREASED PRODUCTION;

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-- BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF SECTORS AND REGIONS-THROUGH A REGULATED FREE MARKET SYSTEM;
--LOCAL CONTROL OF THE ECONOMY-THROUGH "JAMAICANIZATION" OR 51 PERCENT CONTROL OF ALL ENTERPRISES:
-- A JUST BALANCE BETWEEN THE DUTIES OF THE STATE AND THE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE-BY GUARANTEES ON HUMAN AND PROPERTY RIGHTS AND THE STIMULATION OF PERSONAL MOTIVATION;
-- STABILIZATION OF A FREE SOCIETY

4. THE DOCUMENT DEVOTES ONE PAGE TO A RECITATION OF JLP ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE PERIOD (1962-1972) OF JLP CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT. PARTICULAR STRESS IS GIVEN TO JLP INITIATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND THE INITIATION OF MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZATION, MINING AND TOURISM PROJECTS. IT TAKES CREDIT FOR "SETTING OUT QUIETLY AND EFFICIENTLY TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS OF DRAMATIC SOCIAL CHANGE WITHOUT SOCIAL CHAOS."

5. THE STRONGEST PORTION OF THE MANIFESTO IS THAT WHICH CRITICIZES THE PNP FOR "COLLAPSE OF THE JAMAICAN ECONOMY OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS". SPECIFICALLY, THE MANIFESTO ACCUSES THE PNP GOVERNMENT OF:
-- OVER-PRICING-ALLOWING INFLATION TO INCREASE TO AN ANNUAL RATE OF 16 PER CENT.
-- OVER-SPENDING-BY RESORTING TO DESPERATION FINANCING AND DEPLETION OF THE FOREIGN RESERVES.

-- OVER BORROWING-CAUSING THE COUNTRY'S CREDIT RATING TO FALL FROM "A" TO "C".

-- OVER TAXING-BY IMPOSING $180 MILLION IN NEW TAXES.
--UNDER-PRODUCTION-TO INCLUDE FOUR SUCCESSIVE YEARS OF ZERO ECONOMIC GROWTH.

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6. THE REST OF THE MANIFESTO ELABORATES ON THESE THEMES IN BUREAUCRATIC MONOTONE (I.E., " . . . THERE IS A PRESSING NEED TO RATIONALIZE THE BUREAUCRATIC FRAMEWORK WHICH NOW RETARDS THE PRODUCTION PROCESS BY A DILATORY WEB OF DECISIONS AND PERMITS...", ETC.).

7. COMMENT: FOR A DOCUMENT WHICH HAD BEEN DESIGNED TO GIVE IMPETUS TO A LAGGING CAMPAIGN THE JLP MANIFESTO IS A DISAPPOINTMENT. WHILE THE PNP MANIFESTO WAS THIN ON SUBSTANCE AND STRONG ON RHETORIC, THE JLP EFFORT IS SINGULARLY DEFICIENT IN BOTH CATEGORIES. IT CONTAINS A FEW OFT-EXPRESSED THEMES AND OFFERS NOTHING NEW TO ANY AS-YET-UNDECIDED VOTERS. IT STRIVES TO CREATE AN IMAGE OF RESPONSIBLE STABILITY BUT IT COMES CLOSER TO INDUCING APATHY AND SOMNOLENCE.
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